

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (Currently Amended) An administration server for determining
2 whether to provide a software program update to a processor group, the processor
3 group including a plurality of client processors, said administration server
4 comprising:

5 configuration receiving means for receiving and storing a set of system
6 configuration attributes from the processor group, the system configuration
7 attributes indicating whether a copy of a client software program may be applicable
8 to the processor group;

9 configuration transmitting means for transmitting the set of system
10 configuration attributes to a selection server;

11 update receiving means for receiving an update recognizer program
12 from the selection server, the update recognizer program being associated with the
13 client software program and executed at the processor group to determine if an
14 update is applied; and

15 update recognizer transmitting means for transmitting the update
16 recognizer program to the processor group, wherein the processor group executes
17 the update recognizer program to issue a notification indicating whether a software
18 program update is applicable to the copy of the client software program in the
19 processor group.

1 2. (Original) The administration server according to claim 1,
2 further comprising:

3 notification receiving means for receiving the notification from the
4 processor group; and

5 update transmitting means responsive to the notification for
6 transmitting the software program update to the processor group if the software
7 program update is applicable to the copy of the client software program in the
8 processor group.

1 3. (Original) The administration server according to claim 1,
2 further comprising system recognizer transmitting means for transmitting a system
3 recognizer program to the processor group, wherein the processor group executes
4 the system recognizer program to determine the system configuration attributes.

1 4. (Currently Amended) An administration server for
2 determining whether to provide a software program update to a processor group, the
3 processor group including a plurality of client processors, each client processor of the
4 plurality of client processors having a copy of at least one of a plurality of client
5 software programs, said administration server comprising:

6 configuration receiving means for receiving and storing a respective
7 set of system configuration attributes from each one of the plurality of client
8 processors of the processor group, the system configuration attributes indicating
9 whether a copy of any of the client software programs may be applicable to the
10 processor group;

11 configuration transmitting means for transmitting each set of system
12 configuration attributes to a selection server;

13 update receiving means for receiving a respective update recognizer
14 program from the selection server corresponding to each respective one of the
15 plurality of client software programs and the update recognizer program being
16 executed at each one of the plurality of client processors to determine if an update is
17 applied; and

18 update recognizer transmitting means for transmitting to each client
19 processor of the processor group the update recognizer program corresponding to the
20 at least one client software program in that processor, wherein each client processor
21 of the processor group executes at least one of the update recognizer programs to
22 issue a notification indicating whether a corresponding software program update is
23 applicable to the copy of the at least one client software program in that client
24 processor.

1 5. (Original) The administration server according to claim 4,
2 further comprising:

3 notification receiving means for receiving the respective notification
4 from each client processor of the processor group; and

5 update transmitting means responsive to the notifications for
6 transmitting the software program update to at least one of the client processors of
7 the processor group for which the software program update is applicable.

1 6. (Original) The administration server according to claim 5,
2 further comprising:

3 selecting means for selecting at least one of the plurality of software
4 programs and at least one of the plurality of client processors of the processor group,
5 the update transmitting means being responsive to the selecting means for
6 transmitting a software program update associated with each selected software
7 program to each selected client processor.

1 7. (Currently Amended) The administration servers~~system~~
2 according to claim 6, wherein the selecting means utilizes an additional user-defined
3 criterion other than a hardware configuration or software configuration of the
4 plurality of client processors to perform the selecting.

1 8. (Original) The administration server according to claim 4,
2 further comprising system recognizer transmitting means for transmitting a system
3 recognizer program to each of the plurality of client processors of the processor
4 group, wherein each client processor of the processor group executes the system
5 recognizer program to determine the respective system configuration attributes.

1 9. (Original) In a system having a processor group and first
2 and second server processors, a method of updating software in the processor group,
3 comprising the steps of:

4 storing in the first server processor a set of system configuration
5 attributes from the processor group, the system configuration attributes indicating
6 whether a copy of a client software program may be applicable to the processor
7 group;

8 transmitting the set of system configuration attributes from the first
9 server processor to the second server processor;

10 transmitting an update recognizer program from the second server
11 processor to the first server processor, the update recognizer program being
12 associated with the client software program;

13 transmitting the update recognizer program from the first server
14 processor to the processor group; and

15 executing the update recognizer program in the processor group in
16 order to issue a notification indicating whether a software program update is
17 applicable to the copy of the client software program in the processor group.

1 10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, further
2 comprising the steps of:

3 transmitting the notification from the processor group to the first
4 server processor; and

5 transmitting the software program update from the first server to the
6 processor group if the software program update is applicable to the copy of the client
7 software program in the processor group.

1 11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the
2 processor group includes a plurality of client processors, each adapted to have a copy
3 of at least one of a plurality of software programs, for which a plurality of software
4 program updates are transmitted from the second server processor to the first server
5 processor, further comprising the steps of:

6 transmitting notifications from the plurality of client processors to the
7 first server processor, each notification indicating whether one of the software
8 program updates is applicable to the corresponding client processor;

9 selecting one of the plurality of software programs and one of the
10 plurality of clients; and

11 transmitting a software program update associated with the selected
12 software program from the first server processor to the selected client processor.

1 12. (Original) A computer-readable medium for use in an
2 administration server processor for determining whether to provide a software
3 program update to a processor group, the processor group including a plurality of
4 client processors, the computer readable medium comprising:

5 means for causing the administration server processor to receive and
6 store a set of system configuration attributes from the processor group, the system
7 configuration attributes indicating whether a copy of a client software program may
8 be applicable to the processor group;

9 means for causing the administration server processor to transmit the
10 set of system configuration attributes to a selection server processor;

11 means for causing the administration server processor to receive an
12 update recognizer program from the selection server processor, the update
13 recognizer program being associated with the client software program; and

14 means for causing the administration server processor to transmit the
15 update recognizer program to the processor group, wherein the processor group
16 executes the update recognizer program to issue a notification indicating whether a
17 software program update is applicable to the copy of the client software program in
18 the processor group.

1 13. (Original) The computer-readable medium according to
2 claim 12, further comprising:

3 means for causing the administration server processor to receive the
4 notification from the processor group; and

5 means for causing the administration server processor to respond to
6 the notification by transmitting the software program update to the processor group
7 if the software program update is applicable to the copy of the client software
8 program in the processor group.

1 14. (Original) The computer-readable medium according to
2 claim 12, further comprising means for causing the administration server processor
3 to transmit a system recognizer program to the processor group, wherein the
4 processor group executes the system recognizer program to determine the system
5 configuration attributes.

1 15. (Original) A three-tiered configuration management system
2 comprising:

3 a third tier comprising a selection server;

4 a first tier comprising a processor group having a plurality of client
5 processors; and

6 a second tier comprising an administration server for determining
7 whether to provide a software program update to said processor group, said
8 administration server comprising:

9 configuration receiving means for receiving and storing a set of system
10 configuration attributes from the processor group, the system configuration
11 attributes indicating whether a copy of a client software program may be applicable
12 to the processor group;

13 configuration transmitting means for transmitting the set of system
14 configuration attributes to a selection server;

15 update receiving means for receiving an update recognizer program
16 from the selection server, the update recognizer program being associated with the
17 client software program; and

18 update recognizer transmitting means for transmitting the update
19 recognizer program to the processor group, wherein the processor group executes
20 the update recognizer program to issue a notification indicating whether a software
21 program update is applicable to the copy of the client software program in the
22 processor group.